Imaan Mazari, spouse granted one-day protective bail

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday granted one-day protective bail to human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari-Hazir and her husband Hadi Ali Chatha, restraining the relevant law enforcement agencies from arresting them till Tuesday.

Justice Mohammad Azam Khan passed the order while hearing a petition filed by the couple seeking protection in connection with the controversial tweets case. During the hearing, counsel Kamran Murtaza informed the court that the bail of the petitioners had been cancelled twice and fresh orders for their arrest had been issued by the trial court. He urged the court to exercise restraint, submitting that if there was any perceived misconduct by counsel, it should not prejudice the accused.

The lawyer pleaded that Ms Mazari was suffering from poor health, requesting interim relief. He also pointed out that the trial court was scheduled to take up the matter shortly. Emphasising the dignity and responsibility attached to the judicial office, the counsel sought protection to enable the petitioners to appear before the relevant forum.

After hearing the arguments, Justice Khan directed Ms Mazari and her husband to appear before the competent court. The court adjourned further hearing of the petition.

Meanwhile, the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Afzal Majoka adjourned proceedings in the controversial tweets case in view of the IHC order. The trial court directed that both the accused should appear before it within one hour of their appearance before the IHC.

Earlier, the trial court had expressed displeasure over the non-arrest of the accused and directed law enforcement agencies to obtain search warrants and ensure their production. However, officials from NCCIA and police failed to comply with the warrants, seeking time to submit reports.

Judge Majoka warned that action would be taken against officials submitting unsatisfactory reports.

Subsequently, the trial court was informed that the accused had secured protective bail from the IHC and were bound to appear on Tuesday.

Rejecting a request for further adjournment, Judge Majoka observed that no undue concession would be granted and directed that the statement of the accused under Section 342 CrPC would be recorded upon their appearance. The hearing was adjourned till Tuesday.

STUDENTS leave Government Girls Higher Secondary School No 2, Murree Road, Rawalpindi after classes on their first day at school following winter break on Monday. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

CDA reviews fire safety in high-rise buildings after Karachi tragedy

Completion certificate covers fire safety, structural stability, and implementation of approved building plans

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Prompted by the recent Gul Plaza inferno in Karachi, which claimed over 20 lives, city managers on Monday held a meeting to ensure proper fire and safety systems in all high-rise buildings of Islamabad.

They decided to conduct ground surveys of all high-rise buildings in the capital.

"Besides fire and safety systems, the CDA should also ensure that every building owner has a completion certificate, which covers fire safety, structural stability, and implementation of approved building plans," said a CDA official.

He added that a majority of high-rise and apartment buildings in Islamabad have been operating without this certificate.

The meeting, headed by CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, discussed "detailed arrangements for current fire safety measures, making protective measures more effective, and formulating a comprehensive strategy for private and public buildings," according to a CDA statement.

The civic body chief directed that all high-rise private and public buildings in Islamabad be formally surveyed and categorised. "He emphasised that all necessary fire safety measures and emergency exit routes must be mandatory in high-rise buildings," the statement added.

A participant of the meeting said that the Karachi Gul Plaza tragedy was discussed. "Although Islamabad does not face similar risks, as most buildings here have good fire safety arrangements and are constructed according to approved plans, we want to ensure safety and emergency exits in all high-rise buildings to avoid any mishap," he said.

He added that special focus will be on buildings 15 meters and above, of which around 600 are located in Islamabad.

The meeting was attended by CDA Board Member Finance Tahir Naeem, Member Planning and Design Dr Khalid Hafiz, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, Director General of Building & Housing Control, Director General of Capital Emergency Services, and other senior officers.

During the briefing, officials said that approval of a building's fire safety plan from the CDA is mandatory before constructing any new building. For new private and public buildings, fire certification according to Pakistan Engineering Council standards is compulsory. Drones will also be utilised in fire-fighting operations in high-rise buildings.

"Chairman CDA said a clear mechanism must be established to ensure full compliance of sensitive and older buildings with fire safety regulations. He stressed that the fire safety audit system should be strengthened and fully implemented," the statement said.

The meeting also directed the Capital Emergency Services, in collaboration with the district administration, to arrange regular simulation exercises in high-rise buildings. The chairman instructed that human resource requirements of the Capital Emergency Services be fulfilled immediately.

Officials reviewed the activation of a modern emergency operation centre using digital technologies and the establishment of new rescue stations at key locations across the city.

It is relevant to note that a completion certificate (also known as an occupancy certificate) is mandatory for every building once construction is completed. However, in Islamabad, many high-rise and apartment buildings, particularly in sector E-11, operate without this certificate.

"Building owners often avoid obtaining completion certificates due to additional construction," said an official. He added that besides fire audits, CDA management will ensure every building has a completion certificate to guarantee the safety of all occupants.

Educational institutions reopen after winter vacation

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: All public and private educational institutions in the garrison city opened on Monday after almost a month-long winter vacation, which started across the province from December 22 and were to open by January 12 but the provincial government extended the vacation till January 18.

The winter vacation in public and private schools turned out blessing in disguise for the administration of Rawalpindi as the mega development work launched to expand Kutchery Chowk and other roads in the garrison city.

However, soon after the opening of the schools, the traffic remained stuck on the main roads. in the morning and afternoon. On the other hand, District Education Authority issued guidelines for the public schools to ensure the quality of education and to observe the timings.

In a letter to the school administration, District Education Authority Chief Executive Officer Tariq Mehmood said that all district education officers are directed to follow the guidelines in their wings on daily basis.

He said that ensure maximum genuine enrollment. Set clear targets at school and teacher level and achieve them through effective planning and monitoring. Ensure maximum and genuine student attendance. Teachers and students must

ensure punctuality, responsibility, proper dress code, discipline, and an improved classroom and school outlook," he said.

For Academic Monitoring, he said that lesson plans, diaries, and notebooks must be properly maintained. Head Teachers must regularly check homework and notebooks.

Conduct classroom observations, provide constructive feedback, work as a team, and improve teaching quality. Head Teachers should act as facilitators and problem solvers, he said.

He said that their was zero tolerance policy on corporal punishment. Teachers must adopt positive and effective teaching practices.

Ensure overall school cleanliness and an attractive environment.

Maintain clean washrooms and ensure the availability of safe drinking water, he said.

Malaysian envoy, Islamabad traders pledge to boost trade to $4bn

By Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: The Malaysian envoy and the business community of Islamabad have expressed their resolve to undertake collaborative efforts to enhance bilateral trade volume from $3 billion to $4 billion annually.

Dato Muhammad Azhar Mazlan, Malaysian High Commissioner to Pakistan, emphasised the importance of further strengthening Pakistan–Malaysia economic relations by expanding cooperation in trade, investment and people-to-people linkages, particularly in emerging and high-potential sectors.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), headed by its President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, at the Malaysian high commission here on Monday.

Dato Mazlan appreciated the proactive role of ICCI in promoting business-to-business engagement and reaffirmed Malaysia's strong commitment to deepening economic collaboration with Pakistan.

He said Malaysia attaches great importance to Pakistan as a key economic partner and stressed the need for enhanced interaction between the private sectors of both countries.

It was agreed that the Malaysian high commissioner would visit ICCI to hold direct interaction with the business community of the federal capital.

The ICCI delegation, led by President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, comprised Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, Vice President Irfan Chaudhry, and Convener ICCI Standing Committee on Asean Chaudhry Mohammad Ali.

Sardar Tahir Mehmood highlighted Malaysia's significant commercial presence in Pakistan, particularly in palm oil, telecom, education and the halal sector.

However, he pointed out that despite strong ties, the trade balance remains tilted, underscoring the need to diversify Pakistan's exports towards value-added goods and services.

The ICCI president identified the halal industry as a key area for immediate collaboration, proposing joint halal certification standards, establishment of halal parks and food processing facilities, and expansion of meat exports.

He further stressed cooperation in the IT and digital economy, real estate and low-cost housing.

He also highlighted the importance of joint ventures for value addition in the agriculture sector and proposed structured B2B matchmaking between Pakistani and Malaysian companies to accelerate partnerships.

The ICCI delegation proposed organising a Pakistan–Malaysia Business Forum in Kuala Lumpur and holding sector-specific virtual B2B meetings as effective trade promotion mechanisms.

Both sides agreed to work closely to translate discussions into concrete trade and investment opportunities and encouraged Malaysian entrepreneurs to get registered as ICCI members.

Three permanent IHC judges take oath

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: Three judges of the Islamabad High Court (IHC), including Justice Muhammad Azam Khan, Justice Muhammad Asif and Justice Raja Inam Ameen Minhas, on Monday took oath as permanent judges of the court following the president's approval.

The oath-taking ceremony was held in the common room of the IHC and was administered by IHC Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfaraz Dogar. The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by the national anthem, after which the registrar of the IHC read out the official notification of the appointments.

Interestingly, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, the senior puisne judge of the IHC who had opposed the confirmation of these judges during the JCP meeting, attended the ceremony. However, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz and Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan were not present.

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, judges of the high court and district judiciary, Islamabad High Court Bar Association President Syed Wajid Ali Shah Gilani, Secretary Manzoor Ahmed Jajja, senior lawyers and court reporters were also in attendance.

The Ministry of Law and Justice issued the notification of appointment on January 17 with the approval of the president, appointing the three judges under Article 193 of the Constitution with effect from the date they took oath. All three judges had served as additional judges for nearly a year prior to their permanent elevation.

The confirmations followed a meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan held on January 12, which recommended the appointment of the three additional judges as permanent judges. Although their oath-taking was initially scheduled for the following day, the ceremony was postponed as President Asif Ali Zardari was abroad and the notification could not be signed at the time.

The appointments came against the backdrop of an unusual internal judicial controversy. Senior puisne judge Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, who is also a member of the JCP, wrote a letter to IHC Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfaraz Dogar and JCP Chairman Justice Yahya Afridi opposing the confirmation of the judges on grounds of performance and competence.

According to informed sources, Justice Kayani had sought progress and performance reports of the additional judges from the IHC administration in his capacity as a JCP member. When the record was not initially shared by the IHC, it was later provided through the JCP secretariat, following which the letter was written.

During the JCP meeting, Justice Kayani reiterated his objections, alleging that the performance data of the judges had been manipulated and claiming that they focused on deciding comparatively easier cases instead of clearing old and contested matters.

However, official statistics placed before the commission contradicted these claims.

According to disposal data of old cases (up to December 31, 2017) shared with the JCP and the IHC chief justice, Justice Inam Amin Minhas disposed of 93 old cases, Justice Muhammad Azam Khan decided 39 old cases, while Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz 39, Justice Asif 6, Justice Sardar Ejaz 4, Justice Babar Sattar and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri 3 each during the relevant period. In comparison, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani disposed of 10 old cases falling in the same category.

The same official data further showed that, in terms of overall case disposal during 2025, Justice Inam Amin Minhas topped the list by deciding 2,039 cases as a single bench, followed by Justice Muhammad Azam Khan with 1,841 cases and Justice Muhammad Asif with 1,338 cases, figures that were discussed in detail during the confirmation process.

NED UNIVERSITY
OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
Director Procurement
PROCUREMENT CELL
University Road, Karachi-75270
Tel: 99261261– 68, (Ext. 2471-2220) Fax # 99261255,
Email: dp@neduet.edu.pk Website: http://www.neduet.edu.pk
Ref: No. DP/78703/8533/1039 Date: January 16, 2026

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(EPADS)

NEDUET invites Sealed Bids on Single Stage One Envelope procedure from Firms having Registration with Income Tax, Sales Tax and Sindh Revenue Board (whichever is applicable) to carry out following.

Renovation of Offices and Workshop of Light Vehicle Section, Generator Room, Union Office and Toilet Block at Main Campus, NEDUET.

Tender# PC/ NED /DWS/Renovation /8533/2026

Issuance of Documents from	Last Date of Issuance of Tender Documents	Tenders Submission Deadline	Tenders Opening Date / Time
22.01.2026	09.02.2026	10.02.2026 10:00 AM	10.02.2026 10:30 AM
Estimated Cost (Rs in Million)		7.662	
Time of Completion		Three Months	
Tender Fee (Rs)		5,000/-	

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

(i) Valid Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category C-6 & above having specialized codes., CE10, EE11 or EE11(vi) and EE04.

(ii) Registered with Sindh Revenue Board and must have active status.

(iii) Valid Registered License from Electrical Inspector for Electrical Works issued from Government of Sindh.

(iv) Last 3 years Audited Financial Statements alongwith last 3 years online Annual Returns submitted to FBR.

(v) Bidder must have 3 years experience in the relevant field and must provide Documentary evidence of similar work completed and work in progress.

(vi) Affidavit on (non-judicial stamp paper) of no litigation history, non-blacklisting, never indulge in any corrupt, fraudulent and collusive practices, also undertaking that the information and documents provided with are correct. The date of issuance of said stamp paper and bidder signature on it should be later than the publication of this NIT.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

a) Under the following conditions, Bid can be rejected:
(i) Incomplete, Conditional and Telegraphic Bids.
(ii) Bids not accompanied by Bid Security of required amount & form.
(iii) Bids received after Specified Date and Time.
(iv) Black Listed Firms /Companies.

b) Bid Validity Period: 90 days from the date of opening of tender.

c) Bid Security: Tender Fee of Rs 5,000/- and 2% of bid cost in the form of Deposit at Call or Pay Order or Demand Draft or a Bank Guarantee issued by a scheduled bank in Pakistan or from a foreign bank duly counter guaranteed by scheduled bank in Pakistan in favor of Director Finance, NEDUET, Karachi.

Procuring Agency reserves the right to reject all or any bids subject to the relevant provisions of Sindh Public Procurement Rules 2010 (Amended up to date). Bidding documents can be obtained and shall be submitted through EPADS as per above schedule. Bidders are requested to give their Best and Final Price as "No Negotiations" is permitted. Bidding Documents containing detailed terms and conditions are available at Websites **https://www.neduet.edu.pk** and **https://www.portalsindh.eprocure.gov.pk**. In case of public holiday or any holiday or non-working day due to Force Majeure, the next official working day shall be deemed to be date for issuance, submission and opening of tenders. NEDUET shall not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by bidders.

Director Procurement